



COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE UNION

Fall 1992 / Vol. 23, No. 2



Gillnet boat races join Regatta celebration

Shown here in the 1940s, gillnet boat races were held for the first time in thirty years on Sunday, August 9 during this year's Astoria Regatta, sponsored by Salmon for All and the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

First place went to Mike Tarabochia and his twin-engine gillnetter *Michael Jay*, while second and third place plaques went to Randy Stemper on the *Midnight Express* and Troy Johnson on the *Salmon Warrior*, respectively.

This year's event was a last minute affair, according to race

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Anti-gillnet measure could backfire on sportfishermen

Buoy 10 and other mainstem sport fisheries could well be affected by anti-gillnet initiative

Ballot measure 8, a statewide initiative specifically designed by its sportsmen sponsors to get gillnets off the Columbia, could very well end up affecting some of the most popular recreational fisheries on the river if Oregon voters approve it in the November general election.

Buoy 10, arguably the most popular sportfishing area on the lower Columbia, could be severely impacted by the ballot measure which would stop commercial gillnetting on the river between January 1 and August 31 if it is approved by voters.

The measure calls for a Columbia River harvest which is done by "the most selective means possible," and that "all non-targeted fish shall be returned to the waters unharmed." It also requires the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to spend its time and resources researching the most selective method of harvest, with a clear opposition to gillnetting beginning in 1994.

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Sally the Salmon says:

KEEP SALMON ON YOUR MENU

VOTE NO ON MEASURE 8!

On deck

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COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE UNION
322 Tenth Street Astoria, Oregon 503 325-2702

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PRESIDENT Bill Finucane

463 Jerome, Astoria, OR 97103

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Route 4, Box 354, Astoria, OR 97103

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT Chris Doumit

Post Office Box 342, Cathlamet, WA 98612

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Jack Marincovich

Route 2, Box 67-A, Astoria, OR 97103 or

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Office Receptionist-Secretary Arlene Graham

Hours 9 am to 1 pm, Monday through Friday

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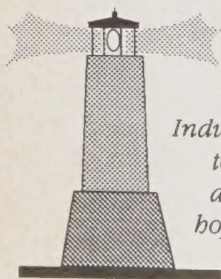
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FOREWORD

The Columbia River Gillnetter is the pilot of the Lower Columbia River Commercial Fishing Industry, keeping fishermen and the public in touch with today's important issues. The advertisements which appear make it possible to publish this paper, and we hope you will, in return, patronize and thank the people who support our livelihood.



Ballot measure 8 is a wolf in sheep's clothing

Like most of the initiatives on the Oregon ballot this election, ballot measure 8 is ridiculous.

This measure, if approved, will not save one salmon, and will do nothing toward restoring depleted runs on the Columbia and its tributaries.

At a time when thousands of Oregonians are out of work all around the state, the last thing we need is a ballot measure which will put hundreds more people out of work.

It's always the same old song, just another verse. The Northwest Steelheaders and other similar sportfishing groups, including the Schoenborn-sponsored Oregon City Hogliners, are once again busily trying to reserve the winter salmon run all for themselves, regardless of how many fishing communities get hurt in the process.

They are posing measure 8 as a fish conservation act, but don't be fooled, the winter run of chinook salmon is not endangered in any way. In fact, since 1980, the run has tripled from 44,000 in 1980 to as high as 132,000.

These salmon are not Snake River-bound, either, most are Willamette River stocks. Gillnetters rarely get to put their nets in the water after the 10th of March, and have not fished for salmon in June or July in 28 years.

This year, gillnetters fished just 12 hours on September 8, and 72 hours between September 23-25. By that time,

most of the run was already over Bonneville Dam.

Sportfishermen caught 16,000 salmon during the 1992 winter season, while gillnetters netted only 4700. Surplus fish at Willamette River hatcheries (fish anglers couldn't catch) totalled 7620. This was fish that should have been harvested by commercial fishermen before their quality deteriorated further as they made their way upriver.

Commercial fishermen were allowed to catch much less than the surplus fish, and now the sports want to take that away from us too. It's pure ballot-box biology!

Measure 8 says close the lower river to gillnetting from January 1 to August 31, but gillnetters fish only about ten during this time as it is. Under the pretense of conservation, recreational fishermen just want the best salmon of the year all to themselves. *Don't be fooled!*

Columbia River Gillnetters are already the most tightly-regulated commercial fishery in the country. Our quotas and catches are closely monitored by the Columbia River Compact, and we rarely get to fish before most of the fish are already gone.

Dams are what kill off 95 percent of the salmon working their way back to the Pacific, not gillnets.

Measure 8 proponents would like you to think the salmon are all gone, when more than 85,000 sockeye went over Bonneville this year. Steelhead also returned in much larger numbers.

They'd also like you to think Columbia River gillnets are just like high-seas driftnets, when nothing could be further from the truth.

Save our salmon! Vote no on measure 8!

—Don Riswick

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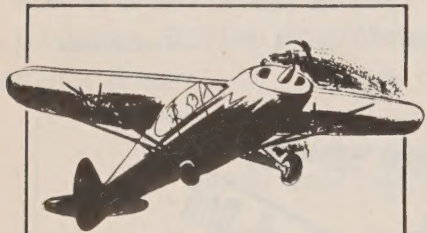
Boat races

organizers. Only six boats participated, including a classic 28-foot Columbia River gillnetter piloted by Bart Oja, the only entry in that class. Dan Stephans, who participated in the last 1962 gillnet race, came in fourth.

Ivan Larsen came in fifth with his twin-engined gillnetter, while Jack Marincovich used his boat for the pole boat, with Don Riswick in the bow with the starting flag.

The first race began at the Plywood Mill, and followed the shoreline to the nun buoy near Tongue Point, then back to the red buoy below the mooring basin and back to the finish line. The second race was a "drag" along the length of the mooring basin. Tarabochia won both.

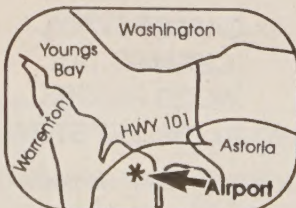
Next year's boat race promises to be a grander event, with a \$1,000 grand prize and a challenge cup being sponsored by David Riswick, a former professional Grand Prix racer.



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Measure 8

Randy Fisher, director of the ODF&W, says that a lengthy assessment of the measure by the Oregon attorney general's office states that it definitely includes sportfishing as well as commercial gillnetting when it calls for a lower Columbia harvest "by the most selective means available."

Even Guy Schoenborn, one of the original authors of the ballot and a longtime anti-gillnet advocate, has admitted that "it was a mistake on our part," and that the measure "was not written with that intent."

Schoenborn is the brother of Larry Schoenborn, owner of Larry's Sport Centers, a Portland-area retail outlet of sportfishing equipment.

If measure 8 were to pass, only sportfishermen on the Willamette would be allowed to take prized spring chinook salmon. With the current sport catch rate at about 30 percent, more than 50,000 salmon would go to waste every year.

The lost economic value to the state's commercial fishing industry could easily top \$2-2.5 million. Instead of being commercially harvested, salmon would be taken by the highest bidder, while the resulting revenue would not go into small fishing communities along the river as it currently does, but rather would be funneled into the state's sportfishing fund. The Portland area would be a direct beneficiary of most of the money.

The measure fails to be very specific in its requirement that ODF&W biologists

make consistent biological assessments of efficient harvest methods, ways of releasing fish, protection of endangered species and rulings on surplus fish that would be supposedly be sold to the highest bidder at auction from hatcheries.

So it is quite possible then, under some circumstances, those biological assessments could preclude some types of sportfishing as well as commercial gillnetting.

What will happen if measure 8 is approved? Columbia River Gillnetters would not be able to put their nets in the water between January 1 and August 31 starting in 1994. The fishery could be eliminated altogether if the fish commission finds the fishery to be "non-selective."

That would not be good news for the already troubled fishing communities in Oregon and Washington as well.

The hundreds of local and statewide businesses which depend on the commercial fishing industry would also be severely hurt. Fish processors which employ hundreds of people would most likely have to close. Consumers would also get the short end of the stick, as restaurants and retail markets could well be denied access to the fresh top-quality salmon which is now seasonally available to them several times a year.

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Blum calls it quits

Just one day after being denied a presidential appointment to the Pacific Salmon Commission, (the joint U.S./Canada regulatory body responsible for managing the harvest of trans-boundary salmon runs), Joe Blum, Washington Dept. of Fisheries Director, tendered his resignation effective June 8.

The decision not to permanently seat Blum to the Commission, on which he has served as an alternate, says that commercial and recreational fishermen were not the only ones disappointed with his performance.

Blum's recent suggestion that we trade away the non-Tribal share of Fraser River sockeye for concessions from Canada on reducing the harvest of U.S.-bound coho and chinook did not go over well with Washington commercial fishermen, and did not go unnoticed by top officials in Washington D.C.

Blum came under fire from Lower Columbia gillnetters last winter when he stopped an extension of the season, even though fishermen had not even approached the quota given by the Columbia River Compact.

"It's probably the best thing that could have happened at this time," says Geoff Lebon of the Washington Trollers Association.

Washington Gov. Booth Gardner appointed Bob Turner, special assistant on state policy, as interim director of the WDF. Turner will finish the term, which expires at the end of this year.

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EDITOR Don Riswick

ART DIRECTOR/
COPY EDITOR Michael V. Demase

TECHNICAL
PRODUCTION/
GRAPHICS Thomas Wynn

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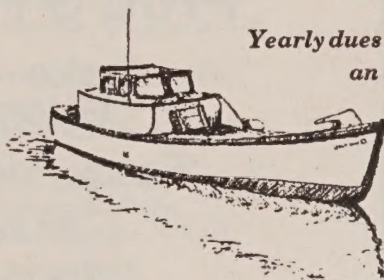
Now more than ever, Unions are playing a big part in many people's lives, and many of us depend on them to support, organize and strengthen our continued way of life.

The Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union would like to remind Lower Columbia commercial fishermen that, like many organizations, we depend solely upon annual membership dues to keep us afloat and in touch with the many important issues facing the commercial fishing industry in the 1990s.

We've been making a difference, but now more than ever, it's clear we do need a union that represents fishermen!

Things are happening quickly, and we must keep up or we'll surely lose ground.

Attend meetings — we've been making some waves and we need to continue to be heard!



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Indians axe Columbia River leaseback program

Tribal leaders cannot agree on terms of leaseback project before the July 15 deadline

A leaseback program which would have paid Columbia River commercial fishermen for not harvesting fall chinook salmon, sponsored by the Northwest Power Planning Council and the Bonneville Power Administration, has fallen through.

BPA officials said this summer that they were unable to negotiate an agreement on the project with zone 6 tribal fishermen by the July 15 deadline. Apparently, the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission could not convince their many tribal committees and councils that the leaseback was in the best interest of their people — and salmon as well.

The sticky point was that tribal fishermen were already given harvest guidelines for Snake River salmon this fall, and tribal representatives had no hope of gathering support for such changes in so little time.

And, since all parties had to agree, the project was nullified.

Tribal leaders do, however, support the general idea of a leaseback and pass-through program, and have agreed to work with all parties to put together a plan for 1993.

The leaseback project, phase 2 of the power planning council's salmon recovery plan, was approved by the governors of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana as well as most commercial fishermen. It was designed to allow more fish to return to their spawning grounds in the Columbia River system, (especially the

endangered Snake River runs), while at the same time financially compensate fishermen for not being able to harvest them.

River harvest managers, in conjunction with the power planning council and the National Marine Fisheries Service, have established a harvest rate that would ensure adequate escapement for Snake River stock growth and development.

The leaseback project basically had fishermen leasing their right to harvest fall chinook. Power companies agreed this was much cheaper than to try to modify the existing hydroelectric system to increase escapement.

"I knew it was probably too good to be true," said one fisherman. "Now they'll put us on the river after all the fish have gone by and let us catch the scraps," he said.

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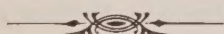
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Any port in a storm? ...not St. Helens

They say any port in a storm will do, but if you're a gillnetter, the city of St. Helens would rather you found someplace else to tie your boat.

Three Columbia River gillnetters were politely asked to leave the public moorage facilities on the St. Helens waterfront during the early fall season, even though there were no other boats of any kind at the moorage, and they were only trying to get a couple hours of sleep.

"Pleasure craft only" say the posted signs at the public moorage, which has a capacity of about 25 or 30 boats.

"We're just total outcasts," said one fisherman. "And it's not like there's a huge commercial fishery at St. Helens, there are only a handful of gillnetters there a few hours a year."

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BORN TO BE WILD

New generation fish hatcheries encourage salmon to return to the wild

Some future generations of salmon may leave home at an early age and never return.

Literally, they'll be born to be wild.

That's the latest thinking on salmon hatcheries. If it is carried out, many new salmon hatcheries would be incubation facilities only. No releases of juveniles into concrete pools, and no collection of adult salmon at hatchery gates.

Juveniles would be released into streams that have available habitat, but too few fish. Adults would be collected at the release sites, and some would be left to spawn naturally and rebuild sustainable populations.

That's a change from traditional practice. For nearly one-hundred years in the Columbia River Basin, fish hatcheries have taken advantage of salmon's remarkable homing instinct. Millions of young fish are released from hatcheries each year. Eggs and sperm are collected from the adults that return to the hatchery several years later, providing the foundation of future generations.

In theory, it is an efficient system that guarantees lots of salmon. In practice, it has flaws. Early fish hatcheries failed. There was a general lack of knowledge about critical issues such as fish biology, life history, nutrition, pathology, genetics and behavioral management.

Research improved this knowledge, but success at the hatcheries created problems elsewhere.

Fish from Columbia River hatcheries — millions of them — mix in the ocean with wild adult salmon. Salmon harvesters catch both the wild and hatchery fish, and the loss of wild salmon is critical.

Wild fish are important, not only for their role in the ecosystems of their spawning tributaries, but for the valuable stock of genetic material they possess. Wild fish are better adapted to survive severe climate conditions

and competition for food. They possess traits that hatchery fish don't have, and therefore are more valuable to the survival of the species.

It is a measure of the importance of wild fish that three runs in the Columbia Basin — Snake River sockeye, spring/summer chinook and fall chinook — are being protected under the federal Endangered Species Act. Unless the hatchery system is reformed, wild fish inevitably will continue to decline.

What to do?

The answer is simple to state, but potentially difficult and complicated to carry out. Change the way hatcheries work. The next generation of fish hatcheries may not look or operate like their predecessors.

The Eastbank Hatchery, completed in 1990, is one of the new generation. Eastbank is located on the east bank of the Columbia River at Rocky Beach Dam, a few miles north of Wenatchee, Washington. It is financed by the Chelan County Public Utility District and staffed by the Washington departments of fisheries and wildlife.

Eastbank hatchery is part of a settlement agreement approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for damage caused to salmon and steelhead runs by Rock Island Dam, a short distance downstream from Wenatchee. Rock Island also is owned by the Chelan utility. Parties to the settlement agreement included Chelan, Puget Sound Power & Light Company of Bellevue, which purchases power from the dam, state fisheries and wildlife agencies, and Columbia Basin Indian tribes.

Eastbank is an incubation and early-rearing facility. Spring and summer chinook, sockeye and steelhead are hatched there, but they don't stay long. Chinook and

Continued on page 20

Bell Buoy closes, reopens with new fishermen owners

SEASIDE — Bell Buoy Crab Company, a popular landmark roadside seafood market and fish processor for nearly 50 years, reopened its doors with new owners this summer.

After being forced to close briefly by a bankruptcy court in August, the Sigurdson family, the owners of the Bell Buoy company, sold the business to four Washington crab fishermen who had been selling Sigurdson crab on credit for the past three years.

"We sold him crab on credit because we trusted Roy," said Claudia Kemmer, whose husband sold crab to Bell Buoy. "But less and less money was coming back and he was getting further and further in the hole,"

she said. The fishermen were forced to take action to recover their losses.

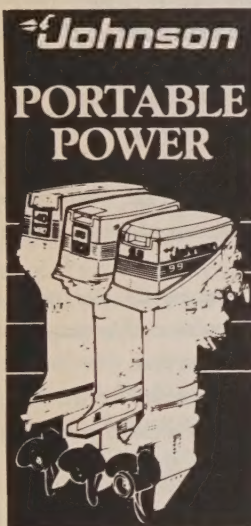
A devastating blow to the company came over the past three years when a Japanese buyer decided not to buy some \$300,000 worth of salmon from the company, saying the quality of the fish didn't meet their requirements.

But the final blow came just this summer when domoic-tainted razor clams turned up in a large part of this year's clam harvest on the Oregon and Washington coast, which forced a recall of clams processed through small companies like Bell Buoy. Processors were forced by the state to buy back their product at a loss if they were processed before the state issued the domoic-

acid warning ban.

"The thing that killed it was the razor clams," said Frank Furnish, a 21-year Bell Buoy employee who is now the plant supervisor. "The state certifies these beaches. They told us to go ahead and dig the clams. We had to pay the diggers and the shellers. We had to pay for everything, and they told us to go to our customers and buy the clams back," said Furnish.

The new owners will retain the Bell Buoy name, as well as its former employees. Since reopening the doors on Saturday, August 22, Furnish said, business has been brisk. "They have been lining up outside the doors. We have been busy, busy, busy."



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Bristol Bay '92: Egegik was the place to be

It was an unusually cold, wet and windy year for fishermen on Alaska's famous Bristol Bay.

It's always an exciting year in Alaska, but excitement in 1992 meant stormy weather, and with that weather came mishaps.

Two Oregon fishermen lost their lives on July 4 when their boat crashed into Dead Man Sands during one of the most violent storms of the season. Reports of 60-70 knot winds were noted by the Coast Guard that day.

"I personally don't think I've ever seen so much rain and wind," said one Astoria gillnetter. "We normally light the oil stove on the boat only at night, but this year it went steady from day one — we never did turn it off," he added.

But what about the fish? The total run on the bay this year was more than 31 million, and the place to be was the Egegik dis-

trict, just south of the Naknek/Kvichak, which saw its fishermen reel in some 15.4 million red salmon — the most ever in its history. An additional 2 million fish went for escapement, which brought the total Egegik run to more than 17.5 million.

"I would say there were some boats in Egegik that caught more than 200,000 pounds," said one fish receiver from Wards Cove Packing Co. "While the average in the Naknek was probably only about 50-60,000 pounds, with very few boats over 100,000."

The Naknek/Kvichak district, traditionally one of the top producing districts on the bay, netted just under 10 million salmon, after a predicted catch of 9-12 million from the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game last spring.

The real bone of contention was not fish, but how many fish were being intercepted by Egegik fishermen before they

reached the upper districts of the Naknek/Kvichak. ADF&G has admitted that some Kvichak fish are being caught in Egegik, but the exact numbers would not be known until this winter after the data for the year is assessed.

Setnet fishermen in the Kvichak section would probably like to forget 1992 (and 1991 as well) as they fished only four openings as of July 13, well after the peak of the run. The average setnet catch was only 7,000 pounds as of July 12.

Ugashik district fishermen caught some 3 million salmon this year, while fishermen in the Nushagak netted some 2.8 million fish.

Fishermen received \$1 per pound for their prized red salmon this year, up from the 70 cents paid last year.

Sliding scales appeared for the first time in many years, as processors paid 1991 bonuses ranging from 1 cent to 10 cents.

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Gillnet recycling program off and running



ANCHORAGE — A collaborative effort between the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and a dedicated pool of local volunteers is turning old discarded nylon gillnets into everything from umbrella handles to bicycle seats to hair and paint brushes.

The recycling effort, the first ever of its kind in the United States, began in Cordova, Alaska, and now is expanding to Washington — and possibly Oregon — as well, due to positive response from fishermen.

An initial \$21,000 grant from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Saltonstall-Kennedy program, a fund generated from tariffs on foreign fish products and equipment, launched the Alaska project. Gillnet collection efforts will continue this year and expand to Dillingham, Haines and Petersburg, Alaska, and possibly Astoria as well, if an Environmental Protection Agency solid waste and recycling grant goes through.

Some 10,000 gillnet fishermen take to the waters just in the state of Alaska alone, and go through 800,000 to 1 million pound of web per year. Without the recycling program, all of it went into Alaska landfills or into the water.

Now, not only is the discarded net being spared from the landfills, but fishermen are providing a much-needed service to the good of the environment.

"A lot of people don't understand that gillnetting is different from high-seas drift-netting," says Mary McBurney, executive

director of the Cordova District Fishermen United. "We want to educate people about the difference. This is helping a lot," she said.

Bristol Bay is one area the group wants to tackle next. This fishery is so fast and furious, fishermen rarely have the time to repair their gear, they just replace it with new. Many bay fishermen go through five or six nets a year, and that adds up to a lot of nylon.

But, at six cents per pound, the price for used gillnets barely covers the cost of processing and shipping, according to Steve Hendrickson of Skagit River Steel and Recycling, the Burlington, Wash. firm which handled the first load of nets. Once the buyers see a more constant supply of old web coming in, things should improve, Hendrickson said.

For more information on bringing the recycling program to Oregon, please contact Fran Recht, PSMFC project manager at 503/765-2229.

New seafood institute director picked

FAIRBANKS — The Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute has a new director.

Kim Elton, ASMI's communications director for the past two years, has been selected to replace Lennie Gorsuch.

"The seafood industry is at a critical juncture in its history, and never before has marketing played such an important role," says Glenn Olds, Alaska Commissioner of Commerce. "We're facing stiff competition in a world market characterized by oversupply. I believe ASMI will play a major role in the industry's future," Olds added.

The marketing institute is a unique partnership between the State of Alaska, the Alaska seafood industry and the U.S. government. It was created to promote Alaska seafood both domestic and world markets, as well as enhance its quality.

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Glimpses from the past
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Early fall season is disappointing

Lower Columbia Gillnetters dipped their nets into the water for the first time this fall on September 8 for a 12-hour Zone-1 opening only, and results were not among the best catches on record.

To the contrary, several fishermen had to make three or four drifts just to catch a handful of fish. "My first two drifts, I didn't catch any fish of any kind," said one Astoria fisherman who fishes below the Astoria bridge.

Gillnetters landed 2,160 chinook during the initial 12-hour season this year, and only 374 coho. Last year, fishermen netted 12,380 chinook and 37,440 coho during a 2-day fall season opener September 10 and 17.

During the week of Sept. 22-25, gillnetters caught 8,790 chinook and 4,021 coho, down from the 12,160 chinook caught during a similar time period last year.

Sept. 27-Oct. 1 saw Columbia River fishermen land 3,094 chinook and 2,224 coho this season, while during the week of Oct. 4-7, gillnetters caught 1,630 chinook and 4,030 coho.

At presstime, fishermen had caught a total of 15,680 chinook, 10,640 coho, 4,740 white sturgeon and 1,910 green sturgeon. The fall season continues for two more weeks.

Youngs Bay gillnetters have caught a total of 1,140 chinook and only 15,200 coho as of Oct. 6. The 1991 Youngs Bay coho showing of 81,000 silvers was the best on record.

Gillnetters received from \$1 to \$1.20 per pound this season for their catches.

Let's talk about Snag Pulling

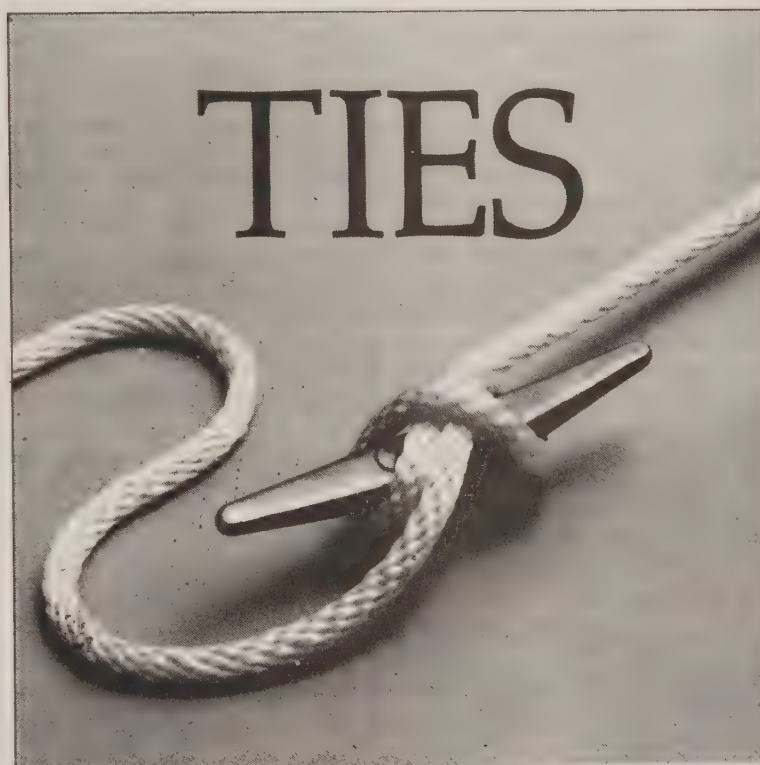
Many Columbia River fishermen are enjoying fishing in waters free of snags. The waters are clear because a few fishermen, usually the same, have taken the time to remove the snags to reduce gear damage.

We hire divers, make new snag nets, and apply to the state for snag permits. We also have set up a Lower River Snag fund at the Astoria First Interstate Bank, under the signatures of Phil Johnson and Don Riswick. We ask fishermen from Tongue Point to the bar to pay \$50 per year in dues, tax deductible.

It is unfair for a few fishermen to shoulder the responsibility of keeping the lower river clear of snags, and our program cannot continue without your help. Many fishermen have never been out snagging, so here's a chance to contribute.

On page 30 is a special clipout to send in your dues. Don't put it off any longer — join the "snag club" today.

ATTENTION YOUNGS RIVER FISHERMEN: A snag fund has also been started for your fishery. Fish buyers have receipt books to take the \$20 yearly dues.



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Russian salmon could jeopardize future markets

Fishermen fear that cheaper Soviet pinks could effectively compete with Alaska salmon

As the state of Alaska was sending some four million pounds of canned pink salmon to the Soviet Union in the spirit of humanity, the Russians were busy harvesting record numbers of pinks themselves.

Soviet fishermen netted 216,248 metric tons of pink salmon in 1991, some 25 percent more than the near-record Alaska pink harvest of 158,681 that same year. The Russian harvest was more than 63,000 metric tons above its 1989 catch, and more than double its 1985 harvest.

Alaska fishermen received only 12 cents per pound for pinks in 1991, when they could find a buyer that wanted to take them off their hands. There were even reports of some fishermen having to throw their catch overboard when no buyers were to be found.

Fishermen fear the Soviet Union could become a major competitor in the salmon market, as it was offering pinks for only four cents per pound at the international fisheries meeting in Washington D.C. just this spring.

But at least for now the Japanese, the world's largest purchaser of salmon, are not too happy with the quality of the Russian pinks, and have reportedly placed their own technicians in Soviet fish processing plants to help improve the quality of the product.

And that's anything but good news for Alaska salmon fishermen.

"The improvement is coming rapidly," says Doug Barry, deputy director for the University of Alaska Center for Interna-

tional Business. "People have said the Russians wouldn't get the quality right for a long time, but that doesn't appear to be the case," he added.

Other people in the fish business agree. "Between their sockeye and pink salmon, they should compete a lot more directly with Alaska fish on the Japanese market,"

"They should be able to put their product on the market at a lot cheaper price than Alaska"

says Keith Whitehead, a staff assistant at the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute in Juneau.

Whitehead says Russian salmon production is growing at an alarming rate, and that the Soviets "should be able to put their product on the market at a lot cheaper price than Alaska should be able to do."

Japanese fishing vessels have long been harvesting millions of Russian pink salmon through joint ventures and other agreements — some 17,000 metric tons in 1991 and an estimated 18,000 metric tons in 1992.

But direct Japanese imports of Soviet salmon have been much smaller, only about 6,700 metric tons of pinks and 2,700 metric tons of sockeye made their way to the Land of the Rising Sun in 1991, a 67 metric ton increase from the year before.

Although the numbers may still be relatively small, Whitehead says that Russia has more than doubled its Japanese exports over the past few years, and has even been known to trade its higher-value fish products for larger quantities of lower-value products in order to put more food on Soviet dinner tables.

"The Japanese do not, themselves, use an awful lot of pink salmon. The fear would be that they would take that pink salmon into Bangkok, or Taiwan or Singapore, where we know it has gone before, and can it," says Rick Lauber of Alaska's Pacific Seafood Processors Association.

"It sure as hell isn't good news," he says.

In addition, Russia has also been trading salmon harvest quotas for other commodities and machinery, including salmon for oil exploration equipment.

But what about sockeye, the Japanese favorite, the real "money fish?" Japanese marketing specialists say that Russian production of this top-quality product is limited, as the Siberian topography doesn't allow for large numbers like those seen in Alaska waters such as Bristol Bay.

"Clearly the Russians are exporting more of their salmon than they have in the past. It's pretty clear that Alaskans need to be very concerned about quality now, very concerned with being competitive about price and very concerned about aggressively moving into new markets," Barry suggests.



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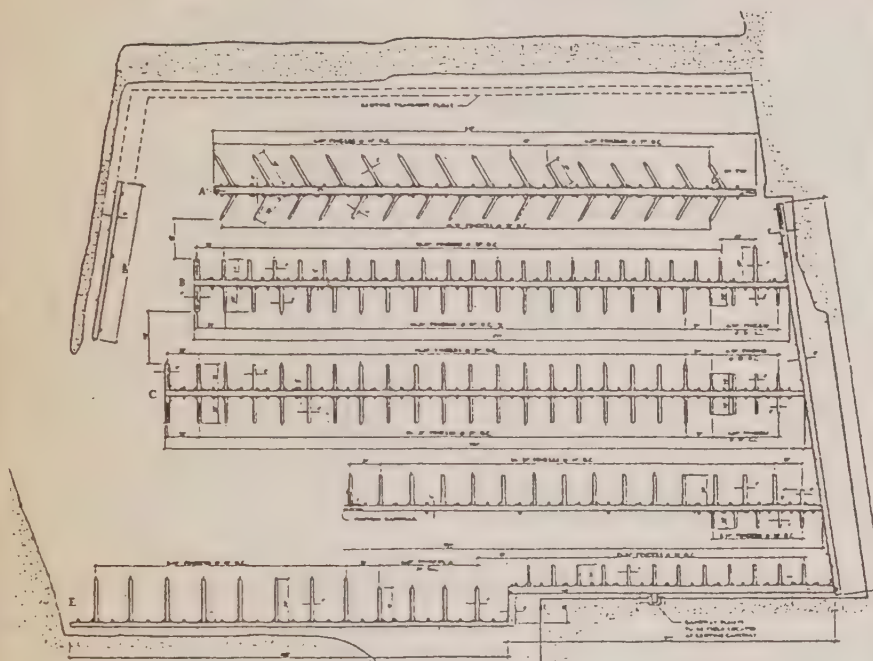
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Construction of a new shoreside restroom facility at the East End Mooring Basin is complete, with additional parking and boat ramp improvements planned for later this year.

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Tribes accused of overfishing Canada's Fraser River

New agreements between the Canadian Department of Fisheries and native fishermen on the Fraser and Skeena rivers are not going over well with Canadian commercial fishermen.

For the first time ever, the fisheries department allowed a new Indian fishery on the upper reaches of the Fraser River, and suddenly sockeye escapement goals for 1992 went unfulfilled.

Some 286,000 sockeye were counted at the mouth of the Fraser, but only about 50,000 made it to the spawning grounds upriver. Native fishermen netted 74,000 fish on the books, which leaves 176,000 sockeye unaccounted for.

British Columbia Fisheries Council President Mike Hunter says he's seen a videotape showing native fishermen selling sockeye next to a fish ladder, long after the fish have passed the counting point on the lower river, which is a "clear violation of the rules of the Skeena River Fishing Commission."

Hunter also claims that U.S. tribal fishermen crossed the border and obtained illegal native identification cards from Canadian tribes to get access to the fish.

David Secord, spokesman for the commercial fishermen's Direct Action Committee, says that fishermen are ready to protest federal fisheries management of the Fraser, alleging discrimination against non-Indian resource users.

Canadian fisheries officials are currently investigating.



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TALES FROM A FISHERMAN'S WIFE

I am fortunate, I am a fisherman's wife.

Tire swings do not grace the trees in our yard. Instead a bright pink buoy ball hangs from the ageless apple tree's branches.

Birds around my home make their nests with discarded hanging twine. Many months of the year fathoms of net, briny and rank, are piled loosely next to that buoy ball; a mark of last year's season. When the net is gone, I have a patch of dead lawn. It will await the return of that pile of mesh that encompasses so much hope and anticipation. Patches of duct tape adhere to my truck's tailgate, a reminder of meshes not to be torn.

Tidebooks litter the dash of this and other family cars as well as the bathrooms and desks of our home.

The gillnet fisherman is not truly "with it" until a month before his season begins. Many nights before that opening day, I reach out a foot in search of my mate's warmth and find an empty spot. A quiet padding down the hallway will find him in his chair, studying the tides, gearing himself mentally for the

two-and-a-half month reason for his being.

He isn't home much those preseason weeks. His mind is on last minute net hanging and boat work. A gillnetter loves his boat, although he would be happy with a mere skiff, just as long as he can fish. The gillnetter's machismo is not found in the style or size of his craft, but in the quality of his skill and how well he was taught, and especially how well he will teach.

When he is home during the season, he really isn't. His mind is adrift with his boat. Both are tethered, he to his family, the vessel to its dock, and both long to be at work. When they work they are at peace. Boat and fisherman are kindred spirits, interlinked by a common goal to provide for their families and the inherited destiny they are compelled to fulfill.

He cannot sleep at home, the boat will cradle and lull him better than I. She is his lover now.

Wives are the first to call these men lazy. They only work a few months of the year.

But I have learned to swallow those words.

While on a drift the fisherman is constantly at work, his eyes rarely leave his gear and when they do, there are decks to scrub, a cabin to clean, fish to ice.

Now the season is ended. The boat is on its trailer, its bilges drained, its engines tuned and the darkened patch of used-to-be-grass has welcomed its friend back from the salty waters of the river.

As the shop door is locked and new nets have been ordered, I climb into our truck and look at him, his handsome face darkly tanned from the sun and the water. I call his name, but he can't hear me; he still hears the echoes and laughter of his soulmates.

Finally, he'll climb into the truck cab and we'll drive. I catch him looking in the rear view mirror, saying a silent farewell to his boat. I reach out and peel a fish scale from his muscular arm and smile. The dash is littered with tidebooks for next year.

I am fortunate. I am a fisherman's wife.

—Shauna Marie Takko

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"Ballot Measure 8 is the most significant threat to gillnetting on the Lower Columbia River to appear on the Oregon ballot in years.

If Oregon voters pass it, it will do nothing to save salmon, a group of Portland-area sportfishermen will simply get to catch more spring chinook while thousands of fish will go to waste.

Hundreds of jobs are at stake, and we must all stand together to defeat Measure 8.

It's bad for fish, it's bad for fishermen, it's bad for business. Join us in voting no!"

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Opinions

Measure 8 is certainly not the answer to saving our salmon. Sportfishermen would like you to believe that if you vote yes, you will magically restore depressed salmon stocks on the Columbia, but don't be fooled. This is pure propaganda.

Measure 8 would simply funnel money away from already hurting small fishing communities on the Oregon coast into the Portland metropolitan area. Once again, sportfishermen sponsors are not trying to save salmon, they simply want them all to themselves. The commercial gillnet fishery is already so regulated it is almost non-existent. If you stop gillnetting altogether, the endangered runs of salmon still won't come back. Hydroelectric dams have seen to that.

Lower Columbia gillnet fishermen do not even put their nets in the water until substantial escapement numbers have already passed through the river, and they do not fish endangered runs at all.

If measure 8 passes, 50,000 salmon would go to waste every year. You'll be hard pressed to find fresh Columbia River salmon at your grocer or favorite restaurant. Even the popular Buoy 10 sport fishery would be adversely affected. The only winners would be recreational fishermen who fish the Willamette, and sportfishing equipment retailers like Larry's Sport Centers who've, coincidentally, sponsored the measure.

Oregonians need to realize that Columbia River gillnets are not the miles-long curtains of death that sportsmen would like you to believe. Gillnets rarely catch non-targeted species, and most that are caught are released unharmed. The Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife says gillnets are "a superior selective fish catching device when properly controlled with regulations."

Yes, salmon runs may be depressed, but gillnets are certainly not contributing to their demise. **Vote no on measure 8.**

*Clarence V. Demase
Columbia River gillnetter*

The first misconception is that the salmon problem is a Columbia River dam problem. While it is certainly true that the dams have depleted the Upper Columbia and Snake system fish, and true that the dams must be re-regulated to aid in the survival of those threatened and endangered salmon runs, over two-thirds of endangered salmonids spawn outside the Columbia, and will not be helped by any river plan, no matter how good.

The second misconception is that commercial harvest and/or driftnetting is the key to the salmon crisis. Again, while careful restriction on harvest and bans on [high seas] driftnets are crucial to the survival of certain stocks, no harvest bans, however draconian, will solve the salmon problem since there are

a host of endangered runs for which there is no commercial harvest whatever. In fact the pattern of risk of extinction for non-commercial fish, like cutthroat and bull trout, suggest that long-standing attitudes that blame commercial fishermen have been misplaced — harvest restriction will not solve the underlying habitat problems.

The key scientific paper on endangered salmon, "Pacific Salmon at the Crossroads," identified the destruction of habitat as the most consistent factor in the pattern of threats to more than 200 endangered salmonid stocks in the region. Habitat destruction from logging, grazing and roadbuilding will continue on public land in the critical remaining watershed areas unless new legislation is implemented.

*David Bayles
Oregon Rivers Council*

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BPA grant will aid Youngs Bay salmon

Fisheries project will get forty more net pens at Tide Point

A recent \$400,000 grant from the Bonneville Power Administration will more than double the number of net pens in place at the Youngs Bay fisheries project.

Channeled through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's salmon recovery plan developed by the Northwest Power Planning Council, the 40 new pens will greatly assist the bay's fisheries project, which rears and acclimates young salmon fingerlings from hatcheries in a series of net pens near Tide Point. The released fish return to the bay after about a year and a half.

Jim Hill, manager of the project which is managed by the Clatsop Economic Development Council, says the grant is more than welcome, and couldn't come at a better time. "It's great. Restrictions on the main stem of the Columbia River make this a well-received opportunity," he says.

The new net pens are due to arrive this month, and will fill the remaining available space for dockside pens at Tide Point, Hill said. Nearly 1.5 million fingerlings from two hatcheries will arrive about the same time as the new pens.

Hill said some 560,000 coho fingerlings from McKenzie Hatchery and 825,000 from Oxbow Hatchery near Bonneville Dam will be reared on Youngs Bay until May, 1993. When released, they'll mature in the ocean and re-

turn in the fall of 1994, becoming fair game for the sport and commercial fisheries along the way.

Hill also looks forward to possibly expanding the fishery project in the future to include returning hatchery-bred salmon fingerlings to Tongue Point and Blind Slough, as well as Deep River, near

Naselle, Wash.

More and more local fishermen are benefiting from the Youngs Bay project. In 1991, bay fishermen caught a record 81,000 coho salmon. "It's really been a lifesaver for me," said one Youngs Bay fisherman, "especially after a couple poor years in Alaska."



Ralph Norgaard

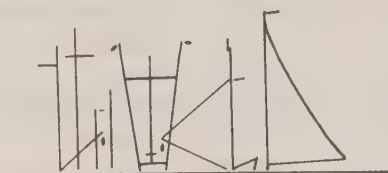
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steelhead from the hatchery are taken as juveniles to special rearing facilities on the Chiwawa, Similkameen, Wenatchee and Methow rivers. Sockeye are taken to a rearing facility at Lake Wenatchee.

Male and female wild adult salmon were collected as brood stock in 1989 to provide the eggs and sperm for the first generation of Eastbank fish. The first juveniles were released in October 1990. They were sockeye, and they spent the winter in Lake Wenatchee. They did not migrate toward the ocean until spring 1991. The first Eastbank spring and summer chinook also were released in spring 1991. The first adults, with the exception of early-returning jacks, are expected back to the release sites in 1993.

Like their wild cousins, Eastbank fish leave the rearing sites on their own volition when they are ready to begin their journey to the ocean. Also like their wild cousins, Eastbank Hatchery fish will return to the rivers where they were released, not to the

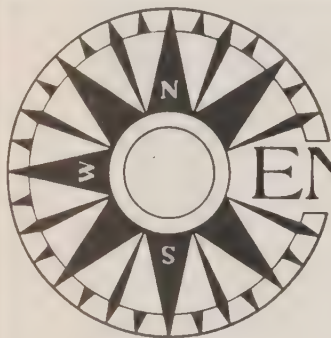
hatchery. Some will be collected for use at the hatchery. Others will be allowed to spawn naturally. The goal is to strengthen the existing runs in those streams.

This concept — releasing hatchery fish into wild streams — is called supplementation, or outplanting. It is controversial.

Opponents fear that wild and hatchery fish will inbreed, weakening the genetic resource and possibly spreading diseases. To protect against that, fish at the Eastbank Hatchery are carefully segregated. Plastic screens that look like huge shower curtains hang from the ceilings as partitions so that water from chinook incubation trays, for example, cannot splash to neighboring trays for steelhead. Adult fish also are carefully segregated.

"We understand that supplementation involves risks," said Ted Bottiger, a Washington member of the Northwest Power Planning Council. "But when you have runs that are down to such low numbers — 318 fall chinook in the Snake River, for example — it is time to take some risks."

In its phase three amendments to the Columbia River Basin



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Fish and Wildlife Program, the Council says that carefully conducted supplementation may be effective in avoiding the potential harmful effects artificial production can have on naturally-producing salmon and steelhead populations.

In the phase two amendments, the Council called on state and tribal fishery managers to propose high-priority supplementation projects. The Council will review these project proposals and make a decision on whether to proceed by March 31, 1993.

The Council also called on the Bonneville Power Administration, state and tribal fishery managers to study the possibility of converting some existing hatcheries to supplementation facilities like Eastbank.

Council member Tom Trulove, who represents eastern Washington, sees the Eastbank facility as a model for the future. "This hatchery is on the cutting edge of new hatchery practices, he says.

In theory, supplementation sounds good. But success depends on the availability of good rearing and spawning habitat.

Some areas appear pristine at first glance, but further investigation reveals crucial components of good habitat, such as streamside grasses, clean water, cool water temperatures or bugs for food, are missing.

Unlike traditional hatcheries, which are capable of pumping out millions of fish, production at supplementation hatcheries will be limited by the ability of streams to support numbers of fish. But over time, hatcheries like Eastbank could make Columbia Basin salmon runs more diverse and genetically stronger.

*From "Northwest Energy News,"
newsletter of the Northwest Power
Planning Council*

NW Steelheaders: Boy are they off-base

"Stop the slaughter," they say.

Not bashful about their opinion on Columbia River gillnets, the Northwest Steelheaders have slanted the facts just a bit in their direction in a recent newsletter, and the record needs to be set straight.

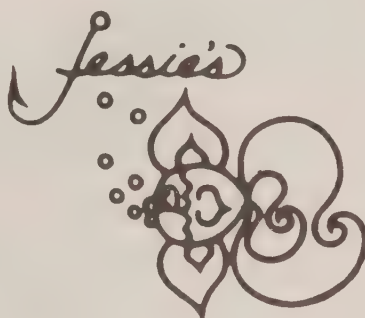
First of all, gillnets rarely catch seals and birds, maybe one or two in a fisherman's lifetime. Most seals go right through the web, taking a big chunk of net — and a mouthful of valuable salmon — with them. And most non-targeted species (especially steelhead and sturgeon) are released back into the water unscathed.

The fish do not "die a gruesome death by the destruction of their gills," after all, the gillnet was *designed* to catch fish so that people could have nutritious fish on their dinner table.

These people would have you believing that gillnets are a major reason salmon stocks are in trouble — what rock did they crawl out from? Everybody knows hydroelectric dams have caused 90-95 percent of the decline, so why all the public breast-beating?

The Columbia River gillnet fishery is a selective harvest fishery today. Even

Continued on page 31



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measure 8

mercial fishermen would directly feel the impact.

The only winners in this scenario are Lower Willamette River sportfishermen, who would have more spring chinook for themselves, while Lower Columbia sport (including buoy 10, the Sandy, McKenzie and Clackamas river fishermen) and commercial gillnet fishermen would have very limited or no season at all.

The American sport tackle and supply industry (e.g. Larry's Sport Centers, a heavy contributor to the yes on 8 campaign) would also be a big beneficiary. A small group of Portland-area sportfishermen who fish the Willamette would siphon the economic benefits away from already-troubled smaller communities on the river that depend solely on this resource, and that's just not fair.

Hundreds of jobs would be lost, and that's not fair, either.

With the election just days away, it is of vital importance that we get the word out as to what this measure would do if Oregonians approve it. Don't be fooled by propaganda, this is definitely not a conservation measure. Not one salmon would be saved.

The proponents are not worried about saving fish, they simply want the salmon and the economic benefits all to themselves.

So keep salmon on your menu, and save jobs in Oregon communities! Vote NO on measure 8.

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Driftnet moratorium is on, but is anyone watching?

The first phase of the worldwide moratorium on high-seas driftnets took effect on June 30, but no driftnet nation has yet produced a plan as to how they plan to comply with it.

Driftnetting countries must have reduced their high-seas fleet by no less than 50 percent by the June deadline, and must stop the practice altogether by the end of this year.

"We want specifics as to how they're going to get out of driftnets," says Ben Deeble of the environmental group Greenpeace. Dan Barr, co-president of the Bristol Bay Driftnetters Association, agrees. "No one's watching how they're going to phaseout. The feeling of U.S.

officials is, we got the moratorium for next year, so this year's not a big deal," Barr said.

Consuls from Japan, Korea and Taiwan have told U.N. officials that they intend to comply with the 50-percent reduction plan as well as the total phaseout, but have failed to submit specific data on their fleets.

Korea has said it will reduce its high-seas fleet from 141 to 105 vessels, and shorten its nets to 42.5 kilometers (about 25 miles), yet this does not even approach the 50 percent reduction requirement outlined in the United Nation's moratorium agreement.

Neither Japan nor Taiwan has given

any specifics at all about their fleet reduction.

Japan, Korea and Taiwan make up the largest numbers in the high-seas driftnet fleet, but China, France, England, Italy and Ireland also participate in the fishery to some degree.

The U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate have approved a bill which would impose mandatory trade sanctions on nations that violate the U.N. ban, but it may not go over well with President Bush, who is likely to veto it. "The administration does not like things like mandatory trade sanctions," says Bill Woolf, an aide to Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski.



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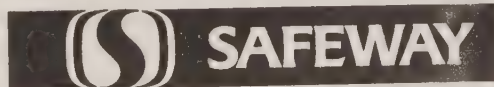
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Waves from the past

Taken from a letter written to the editor of the "Bumble Bee" newsletter of the Columbia River Packers Association, September, 1946

One of the most common misstatements made in connection with arguments concerning the Columbia River Salmon Fishery is that which places the entire blame for the diminution of the salmon runs upon "overfishing" attributed generally to the "greed" and "hoggishness" of those engaged in the commercial fishing industry.

Salmon runs of major commercial importance have been maintained on the Columbia River for more than 80 years. Had the fishermen and packers been as greedy and hoggish as charged they would have become a negligible factor 30 to 35 years ago.

Over half a century ago the fishery industry, packers and fishermen, realized that they could not continue to take a heavy harvest of the Chinook salmon without allowing enough escapement to permit the annual returning crop to renew itself.

It was 58 years ago when the fishermen and packers, of their own violation, proposed the enactment of laws regulating fishing operations, laws which regulated gear, established closed seasons, and which later resulted in the establishment of hatcheries where adult salmon could be spawned and the young cared for and released at migration age.

In what other natural resource industry in this country was a conservation program recognized and put into effect in the 1880s? Since that time these conservation measures have been strengthened and broadened out, each time with the consent and approval of the industry.

Unfortunately other factors entered into the picture. Dams have completely eliminated 75 percent of the original natural spawning grounds of the salmon runs; millions of little salmon have died in irrigation ditches; and millions have been lost to pollution.

Despite this fact, the industry was maintaining itself to a remarkable degree until the demand for hydroelectric power resulted in the construction of dams across the main Columbia. No conservation measure can meet the threat of these dams and still effectively maintain the resource as a major industry.

There exists definite evidence that salmon are killed passing over these dams and that young salmon migrating to the ocean are killed in the turbines and boils on their way to the ocean. This is not the entire measure of damage. The mere fact that salmon can pass some of these dams on fish ladders is no proof of their ability to survive and spawn.

Studies on the Fraser River in Canada have proven clearly that where salmon runs are blocked by unnatu-

ral obstacles or the fish have to exert an abnormal amount of effort to cross such obstacles, that they are very likely to die before their propagation functions are completed.

This is not hard to understand when it is realized that there is little or no food for the adult salmon in the Columbia or its tributaries. These fish must build up enough reserve strength during their stay in the ocean to provide fuel for their journeys of hundreds of miles upriver, and then during the period of several months until the eggs fully ripen and spawning is consummated.

Nature has geared them to build up a reserve to accomplish this journey, but it cannot provide for the extra power needed to negotiate the long fish ladders at man-made dams, and then continue to survive through the spawning period. Anyone watching salmon make their painful way up the fish ladders at Bonneville Dam can realize the terrific effort involved and when it is realized that they have no way of replenishing this wasted strength, the danger of the dams can be more clearly realized.

The commercial fishing industry is not in any way responsible for these losses. The record shows that the industry has stood for sane and proper measures for conservation. True, it has opposed some of the crackpot proposals of the ignorant and the selfish, made by the type of people who can find a quick and plausible, and entirely unsound, remedy for anything that happens in this world.

The Columbia River salmon industry does not claim a perfect record. It is dealing with so many unknown and uncontrollable factors that its efforts must be based, to a large extent, upon guesswork, but it does claim a better record than that existing in connection with most other natural resource industries. No program of conservation has ever been adopted without resistance from a few selfish elements in the fields of recreational as well as commercial fisheries.

It does deny that the present status of the Columbia River salmon fishery is due to any major extent to over exploitation of the resource and it does emphatically deny any wish on the part of any considerable element among either the fishermen or the packers to "fish out" the resource. This latter charge is most ridiculous in view of the tremendous capital investments of both the fishermen and packers in the resource, investments which will become valueless when the resource is gone or reduced much below its present status.



A Wave Goodbye

WALTER G. KANDOLL

Walter George Kandoll, 70, passed away July 26 at his home in Deep River, Wash.

He was born in Astoria October 17, 1921, the son of Emil and Johanna Amundson Kandoll. He attended schools in Naselle, Wash. and served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He married Mary Cameron on May 14, 1947. She survives.

Mr. Kandoll was a commercial fisherman, logger and farmer.

He built, owned and operated a small sawmill with his brother, Er-

nest, in Deep River during the 1960s and 70s. In 1945 he constructed and operated the first net reel on the Columbia River.

Surviving besides his wife are two sons, Ken Kandoll of Naselle and Brian Kandoll of Petersburg, Alaska; two daughters, Kathleen Wright of Fairbanks, Alaska and Beth Kandoll, Astoria; a sister, Mabel Herold, Astoria; two brothers, Ernest Kandoll, Longview, and Richard Kandoll of Deep River, as well as eight grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

ALVA HANSEN

A memorial service was held Sunday, May 3 at Zion Lutheran Church in Camas for Alva Hansen, a retired commercial fisherman.

Mr. Hansen lived in Portland and Corbett until 1948 when he moved

to Washougal, Wash.

He was preceded in death by a son in 1953, and is survived by his wife Ruth and son Alan of Washougal, and daughter Karen Bena of Vancouver, Wash.



This is the Bumble Bee, an old cabin cruiser owned by Bumble Bee Seafoods, shown here during the late 1940s. She was used by the company when visiting receiving stations along the river, as well as escorting visiting officials to the sportfishing grounds.

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Indians call for removal of two Columbia basin dams

Two hydroelectric dams without fish ladders or other means of passage have blocked fish migration on the Similkameen and the Big White Salmon rivers since 1915.

Yet these two Washington river systems contain some of the Columbia Basin's best remaining salmon habitat. In fact, the Similkameen and Big White Salmon subbasins offer excellent opportunities for off-site mitigation for fish losses from Columbia River mainstem dams.

Because of good habitat and favorable location, naturally spawning salmon could once again inhabit these waters. Standing in the way of restoration are not only the two dams, but also their owners.

Today both the Enloe on the Similkameen and the Condit on the Big White Salmon are antiquated and inefficient structures. But their owners, respectively, Okanogan Public Utility District and Pacific Corp, are currently seeking operating licenses through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and neither proposes to provide fish passage at the dams.

The Similkameen contains over 350 mainstem miles of salmon habitat. The river, a tributary of the Okanogan, has adequate flows to sustain salmon populations. The Similkameen and the Okanogan drain into the Columbia about 10 miles downstream of Chief Joseph Dam; an area of the river where, again, water flows are usually sufficient to support salmon migration. (While the Snake River drainage possesses some good anadromous fish habitat, a dearth of water and other habitat problems make restoration far more difficult there.)

The Big White Salmon River has more than 45 mainstem miles of salmon habitat. This river system has an advantage over many other upriver drainages: Migrating fish have only one mainstem Columbia River dam to traverse before reaching spawning areas on the Big White Salmon. The river, also called the White Salmon, may be protected from further degradation by its designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

Additionally, most of the river is within the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area.

The Yakima Indian Nation, CRITFC

(Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission) and a number of other state and federal agencies have intervened in the FERC proceedings and are asking FERC to require environmental impact statements that would examine various juvenile and adult fish passage alternatives, including dam removal.

Actually, the tribe's (and CRITFC's) assessment is that taking down the two structures — rather than adding fish passage features and programs — is the most biologically sound way to restore and sustain natural salmon runs in the two subbasins. To add fish passage, both

dams would require structural renovation at substantial cost, making neither of these small hydroelectric projects cost-effective.

Another compelling reason to consider removal involves safety — concerns that persist at both facilities.

Enloe Dam — Located on Bureau of Land Management property, Enloe Dam is owned by Okanogan Public Utility District. Even though the project has been inactive since the 1950s, the PUD is asking FERC to license the dam and let it operate without fish passage.

Okanogan PUD admits that providing

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fish passage costs too much.

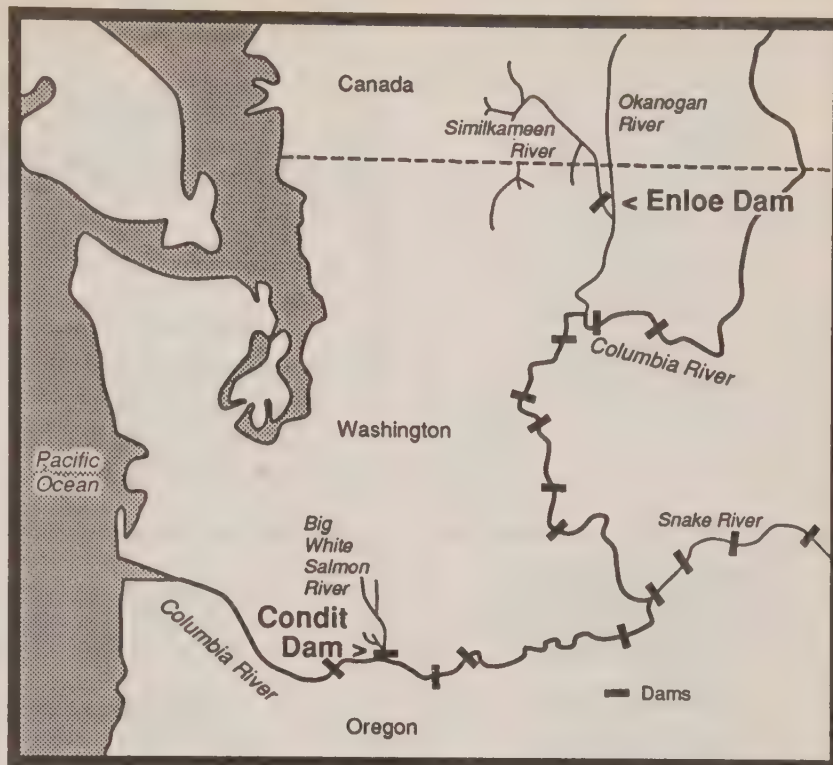
A concern of those opposing fish passage — surprisingly, opponents include Washington Department of Fisheries — is that too few returning adult fish would survive nine Columbia River dams in sufficient numbers to perpetuate naturally spawning runs.

The success of a recent program has dispelled that concern. As a result of the Oroville-Tonasket steelhead mitigation project, over 4,000 adult steelhead were harvested in the Similkameen and Okanogan rivers during 1984-1986.

Extensive studies by the Bonneville Power Administration indicated that the basin above the dam could produce an estimated 4.8 million chinook smolts and 610,000 steelhead smolts. The tribal Production plan calls for spring chinook and steelhead restoration in the Similkameen.

Already considerable sockeye and summer chinook production occurs in the limited river habitat below the dam. These sockeye and summer chinook stocks, which have been in decline, would benefit enormously if upstream passage were made possible.

Until last fall, the Northwest Power Planning Council (NPPC) called for fish passage at Enloe. When the power council proposed to delete the measure, it met with substantial opposition. NPPC then responded that Okanogan PUD had to provide downstream passage, while upstream passage issues would be decided at a "later time" after a concern about fish disease, expressed by the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, was re-



Here is a sketch drawing of the Lower Columbia River Basin, depicting the locations of the Enloe, Condit, and the many other hydroelectric dams along the river system in Oregon and Washington. The Enloe and Condit are both dams Indians would like to see removed to restore declining salmon runs, but its owners are fighting the move.

Indians say both dams block two of the river system's best remaining salmon habitats.

solved. In May CRITFC and other agencies asked for a thorough analysis of the disease issue. So far NPPC has done nothing to investigate the concern.

While dam removal costs are estimated at \$2.2-3 million, other fish passage options would be more expensive. Upstream passage via fish ladders from the falls and fishways from the powerhouse would cost about \$3 million. A trapping and hauling option for upstream adult salmon would cost about \$2 million to start and an estimated \$66,000 in annual costs.

Downstream passage facilities could cost as much as \$2-5 million. In addition, water used in ladders or fishways or for spill — water which otherwise would generate electricity — would lower generating capacity for about a third of the year and would require new water per-

mits. FERC has asked for safety studies of the dam, which was constructed between 1916 and 1923.

The Umatilla, Nez Perce, Warm Springs and Colville Tribes and the National Marine Fisheries Service join the Yakima tribe in recommending more analysis of the dam removal option. While the Okanogan Tribal Bands of Canada have not taken a position on dam removal, they are advocating fish passage over Enloe.

The Okanogan Tribal Council, whose bands are negotiating land and fishing rights claims with British Columbia, supports the reintroduction of sockeye, chinook and steelhead in the Similkameen. Seventy-nine percent of the Similkameen River basin is in British Columbia.

Continued on page 34



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1 cup shrimp, cooked & peeled

2 cups sliced onions

2 cloves garlic, finely minced

1/4 cup oil

3 1/2 cups canned tomatoes, undrained

1/4 cup chopped parsley

2 tsp. salt

1 tsp. basil

1/2 tsp. oregano

1/4 tsp pepper

1 can (8 oz.) tomato sauce

1 cup water

Thaw frozen fish and cut into 1 1/2 inch chunks. Cook onion and garlic in oil until onion is tender but not brown. Add tomatoes, tomato sauce, water, parsley, salt, basil, oregano, and pepper. Cover. Simmer gently about 30 minutes. Add fish chunks; cover and simmer 10 minutes or until fish flakes with fork. Add pre-cooked shrimp.

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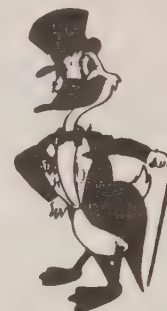
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Informative signs will aid river watchers on Astoria waterfront

ASTORIA — A series of interpretive signs depicting the various types of commercial fishing vessels which pass back and forth along the Astoria waterfront will soon be in place to assist both residents and visitors in their river watching.

"The aim is to provide some interpretive information to help visitors and residents identify the types of fishing vessels and learn a little about the types of fisheries that take place in the river and off the coast," says Bill Cook, Port of Astoria Harbormaster.

The informative signs, provided by the Fishermen's Marketing Association, will be placed at the West and East End mooring basins in Astoria, as well as the two basins in Warrenton and Hammond. A fifth location on Astoria's waterfront will be decided later.

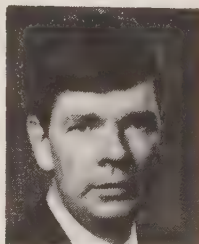
The signs will depict the various types of fish boats, and provide information on the gillnet, crab, shrimp, trawl, troll and longline fisheries on the North Coast.

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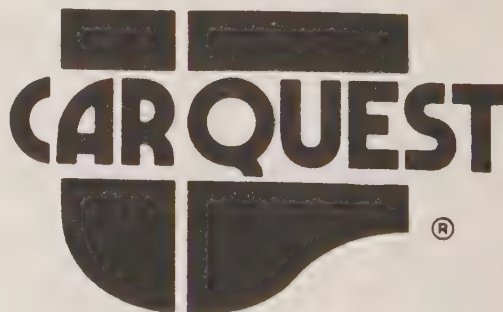


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NW Steelheaders

the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife says the gillnet is "a superior selective fish-catching device when properly controlled with regulations."

Columbia River gillnets are not at all similar to the miles-long high-seas driftnets used by the Japanese, Taiwanese and Koreans. Foreign driftnets are about 100 times longer than Columbia gillnets, and more than ten times as deep. They use monofilament webbing, which has been banned here for years, and use unrestricted mesh sizes to catch more sizes of fish.

On the Columbia River, mesh sizes are closely regulated to ensure adequate escapement for non-targeted species. Steelhead and sturgeon are hearty fish which almost always come into the boat — and out of it — alive.

They also say, "If you are fed up with the indiscriminate killing of fish and wildlife and the depletion of fish runs, the time to act is now," referring to measure 8 coming up on the November ballot.

You certainly can't believe everything you read, and a "yes" vote on measure 8 certainly won't do a thing to save salmon or wildlife. Don't let them fool you, these NW Steelheaders are way off base and out of touch.

What measure 8 would do is allow some sportfishermen to catch more fish while small fishing communities and their residents will suffer dire economic consequences.

These sportfishermen simply want the salmon all to themselves!

Vote no on measure 8!

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NORWEGIAN FISH FARMING: A day in the life

A low ceiling of dark-gray clouds truncates the surrounding mountaintops, making this fjord seem like a long, covered box, with one end open. Coming off the water, the wind feels much colder than its 48 degrees.

Yesterday, the sky above the Sorfjord (the South Fjord) was so clear, and the air so pure and fresh, that dazzling sunlight caused shadows to be velvety black, and colors were so intense that the landscape looked surreal.

Salmon and trout feeding in pens here at the Martin Midtun fish farm broke the surface, churning up brilliantly white blossoms of froth that sparkled against the surrounding water's perfect blackness, and you could see how rainbow trout got their name.

But today, this early fall morning scene is muted. From one end of the fjord to the other, nothing but tones of gray roll on. Gray choppy water, gray curdled sky, gray coastline, gray metal cages, gray droplets of fog and drizzle—all framing the fish farm with a certain sameness.

Even the sounds are gray: little thundery sounds that wind makes in the ears, choppy waves sloshing into the pens jutting into the fjord, a boat bumping against the floating pier, sea gulls squealing while circling a spot in open water, automatic feeders clanking with each release of pellets into the water.

Nearby, the door on the floating pier's supply house opens, and out comes Reidar Stokke on a forklift. The machine's yellow paint and Stokke's bright red coveralls are welcome splashes of color in this theater of grayness.

The humming forklift carries a stack of fish food in 77-pound bags. Between each pair of the 18 pens along a metal gangway, Stokke stops the machine, hops off and lifts six bags



of feed from the stack, leaving three beside each pen.

About a yard above the water, in the center of each pen, a bushel-basket-size mechanical feeder is held in place by a boom pivoted at the pen's corner. Stokke grabs a rope tied to the feeder and pulls; the feeder swings round next to the pen's side, and he removes its top. It's almost empty, so he tears off the top of a fish-food bag and pours the pellets into the feeder, shaking the bag clean over the water.

The water suddenly detonates with feeding trout, as if they had known that Stokke would pitch the remaining pellets into that exact spot and had simply waited there for him.

Approximately 700 fish farms exist in Norway. It's a \$589 million business, almost equal to that of the USA, which has about 500 farms and a \$608 million annual take.

Though China produces the largest number of aquacultured fish in the world, Norwegian

fish farmers produce between 70 and 75 percent of all farmed salmon in the world.

At the Midtun fish farm where Stokke works, hundreds of fish eat 5,500 to 6,500 pounds of food everyday. The food pellets, made mostly of fish meal and grain meal, costs about 68 cents per pound, and are quite palatable—even to Stokke.

Every two or three months, when persistent algae and half-inch mussels attach themselves to the nets that form the bottoms and sides of the fish pens, Stokke helps remove and wash the nets. The baglike nets are large, dipping more than five fathoms into the fjord's cold waters.

Virulent diseases have also taken their toll on the production here and at other fish farms in Norway and elsewhere.

After starting their lives in the adjoining fish hatchery, the fish are two years old and

(Continued on next page)

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about four inches long when introduced to the nets. During their first half-year here, they grow to about two pounds, and by the end of the second year grow to reach a 40 pounds or more.

The fish sell for about \$2.00 to \$3.60 per pound.

Life as a fish farmer can be monotonous, gray and, especially in Norway, very cold and very wet. But then there's pure mountain water, fresh air, glorious summers, and that magical glow.

It can be a wonderful life, indeed.



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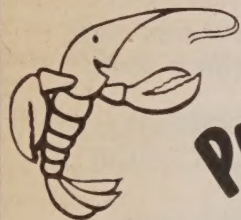
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Alaska fish company hires homeless

— An Anchorage seafood processing company has decided to do something about the ever-growing number of homeless citizens in the Anchorage area.

Dragnet Fisheries put some two-hundred homeless men and women to work this summer at its Bristol Bay herring processing plant in Dillingham.

The project was developed by Jim Crockett, Chief Financial Officer of the parent company of Dragnet, who sees it as a positive move for the company as well as the community.

"We would like to see people earn a living rather than be on welfare. This is a win/win situation — everybody benefits," Crockett said.

Ironically, some of Anchorage's homeless were lured to Alaska by what appears to have been a scam promising jobs at fish processing plants if the prospective worker pays a \$200 application fee and buys an airline ticket to Anchorage.

When the worker arrives, he or she discovers that no such arrangements for their employment exists.

Salmon for All forced to relocate

— Astoria's historic old Kinney Canning Company building, which houses the offices of Salmon for All, is in a sorry state of disrepair. So much so, the City of Astoria was forced to list the building as unsafe this summer.

New decking, new pilings, roof and electrical work is needed to bring the building, built in 1892, up to code, even though the section which houses SFA is essentially trouble-free.

SFA moved its operations to the Red Lion building at the West End mooring basin in mid-August.

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Dam removal *continued*

A FERC decision whether or not to require fish passage on this transboundary river has other international implications. For example, such a decision is likely to affect the Boundary Waters Treaty. Yet Okanogan PUD, Enloe's owner, failed to address this issue — and many others — in its license application.

This oversight was compounded by the U.S. Department of Interior's recent decision not to intervene in the FERC proceeding. The Department of Interior represents the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

The BIA intervened and recommended that Interior also participate. Interior, however, appears to be following the lead of USFWS, which has neither intervened nor called for upstream fish passage at the dam. With this current position, the Department of the Interior defies its trust responsibility for affected U.S. tribes.

Condit Dam — Condit Dam blocks anadromous fish habitat on the Big White Salmon River, habitat that historically produced summer and winter steelhead, spring and fall chinook, coho, chum and eels (Pacific lamprey). Now only remnants of some of these stocks exist in the river below the dam.

Yet the Big White Salmon, which begins as a rushing stream on the southwest slopes of Mount Adams, could again contribute significantly to salmon and steelhead production. There is sufficient habi-

tat on the Big White Salmon, for example, to support 3,000 returning spring chinook spawners, according to the "Integrated System Plan," a plan to double salmon runs in the Columbia Basin.

Decades ago attempts to build a fish ladder at the dam failed. From 1982 until 1987, NPPC's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program called for fish passage at the Condit Dam. Expiration of the dam's operating license at the end of 1993 has renewed tribal, federal and Washington State fish agency efforts to once again call for fish passage at the hydroelectric facility.

The dam's owner, Portland-based Pa-

cifiCorp, wants Condit relicensed without fish passage. PacifiCorp acknowledges that the dam does not comply with the NPPC Fish and Wildlife Program, but believes its relicensing proposal complies with a fish agency-tribal subbasin plan for the Big White Salmon. The agencies and tribes are, however, recommending that the subbasin plan be amended to include restoration of all salmon and steelhead stocks above the dam.

According to PacifiCorp, the tribes' and agencies' goal of restoring self-sustaining salmon runs above the dam is "unfeasible." It claims that the existing USFWS spring chinook program at the



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Little White Salmon Hatchery is adequate chinook mitigation.

Condit's owner proposes to continue its net pen program for resident trout in the reservoir above the dam and to fund a net pen steelhead program there which would raise an estimated 80,000 steelhead smolts for release in the Big White Salmon downstream of the dam.

PacifiCorp scoped fish passage alternatives and costs, including trapping and hauling adult fish by the dam (\$4-6 million), constructing fish ladders (\$6-8 million), installing vertical traveling screens for downstream passage (\$5-8 million) and spillway modifications for downstream passage (\$1 million).

But, as indicated previously, Pacifi-

Corp does not support any of these options.

PacifiCorp estimated costs for dam removal at \$31-74 million. CRITFC believes the estimate is too high. PacifiCorp based its figures on assumptions about how much sediment is in the reservoir behind Condit. Sediment management is the major expense in dam removal.

A recent FERC study investigating removal of the Elwha Dam on Washington's Olympic Peninsula estimated costs at \$24.4 million. The Elwha is twice as large and contains twice as much sediment as the Condit.

Also, dam safety continues to be a concern at the 80-year-old project. Major

questions remain including whether or not the dam's left abutment is founded in solid rock. PacifiCorp has not responded to CRITFC requests to develop and implement an emergency action plan in the event of dam failure. Several tribal members have permanent residences at Underwood, which is at the river's mouth, while sportfishermen use the lower portion of the Big White Salmon below the dam.

*By Bob Heinith and Laura Berg
of the Wana Chinook Tymoo, the newsletter
of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal
Fish Commission.*

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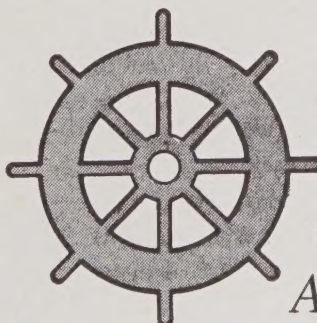
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Port of Astoria opposes Measure 8

Commissioners at the Port of Astoria have proudly announced their strong opposition to ballot measure 8.

The port has long opposed misguided efforts to curtail the Lower Columbia commercial fishery, including working to stop proposed anti-gillnet measures during the 1987, 1989 and 1991 Oregon legislative sessions.

The port has also championed the Lower Columbia River commercial fishery as part of its involvement in various groups and associations which protect the industry, including securing the Oregon Public Ports Association's opposition to the measure.

The port has significantly improved both Astoria mooring basins during the past year to better accommodate the important local commercial fishing industry.

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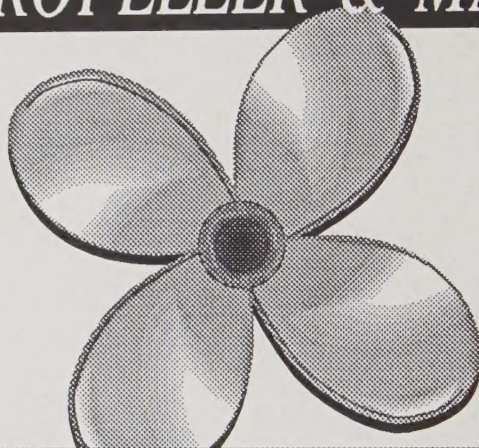
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